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Island forecast, mostly cloudy, sunny periods
(Details on page 2)

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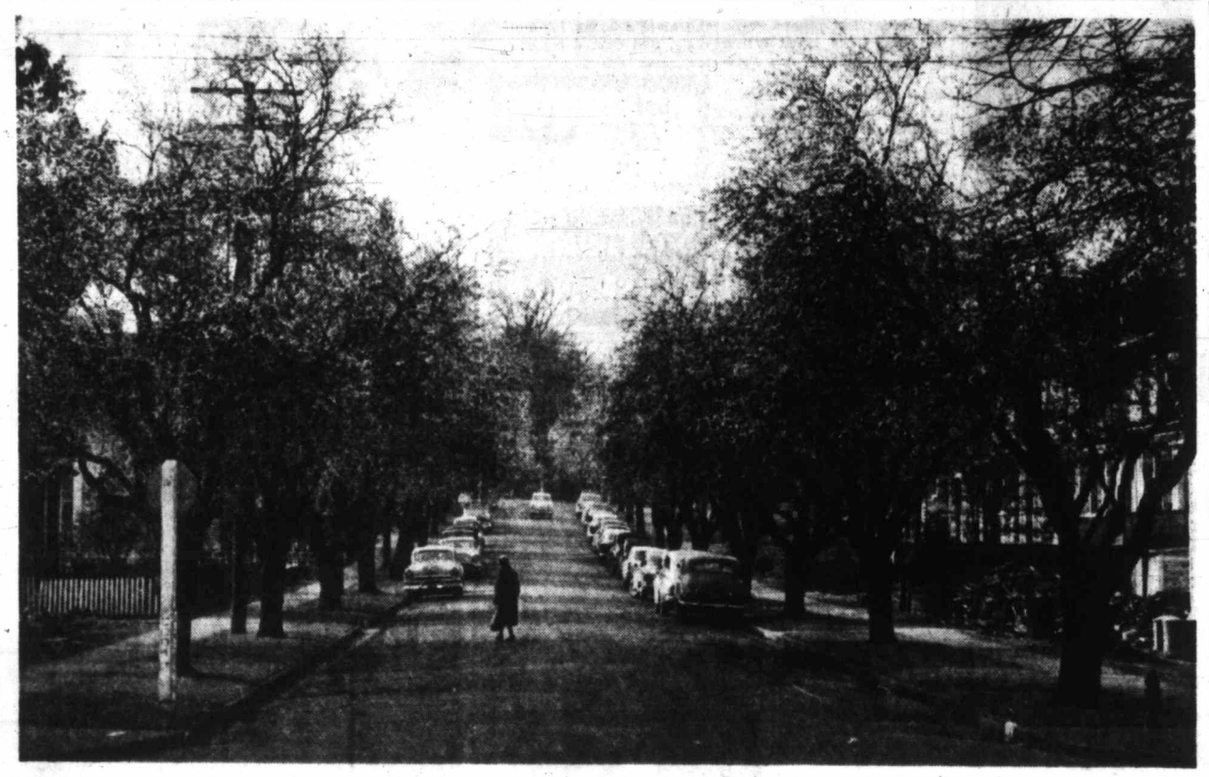
We Can't Afford U.S.-Style Pensions

Canadians simply cannot afford an employer-employee contributory plan for old-age pensions like the high-benefit scheme in the United States, UBC Prof. Robert Clark told the government yesterday after a year-long investigation. Full details of the report, which recommends no pension changes, are on page 5.

TOP-LEVEL PARLEY CALLED TO DISCUSS BERLIN IMPASSE



Showy white Pissardi plum blossoms have brought spring to Burdette Street. —Colonist Photo

Eisenhower Summons Congressional Chiefs

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Eisenhower Thursday summoned top congressional leaders of both parties to the White House today to discuss U.S. strategy in the tense impasse with Russia over Berlin.

The president acted after huddling with the top-level national security council and on the heels of a state department assertion that Russia's plan to pull out of Berlin still was unacceptable even if the Soviet's extended their May 27 deadline.

The White House also said that Eisenhower had heard from British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and there would be a further announcement today. It presumably will say that Macmillan has accepted the President's invitation to come to Washington later this month.

SUBBING FOR DULLES

Acting Secretary of State Christian A. Herter, who is subbing for the ailing John Foster Dulles, will brief the congressional leaders along with Defence Secretary Neil H. McElroy.

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty had announced earlier that the special security council meeting, which followed the group's regular session, dealt with the "evolving situation in Berlin and the broader question of Germany."

"OF COURSE"

Asked if today's congressional meeting would cover the same area, Hagerty replied: "Of course."

The press secretary said the meeting did not foreshadow any request for special action by Congress in the Berlin situation but was intended only as a discussion between the president and the four top congressional leaders.

FOR FIRST TIME

The meeting will mark the first time since the new congress convened in January that Eisenhower has met with all four leaders together.

Shortly before the White House announcement, defence secretary McElroy told a news conference the United States could spot preparations for any Russian surprise attack before Soviet missiles or bombers ever left the ground.

WORLD WAR III

McElroy also said he believed that if the Berlin crisis erupted in shooting, it probably would develop into world war III. But he said he did not expect war over Berlin because the problem still was being negotiated with Russia.

In his discussion with newsmen, Hagerty was reminded that Eisenhower had told his news conference yesterday that the nation must learn to live with recurring crises and must not be panicked into war jitters.

PAST 24 HOURS

He was asked if anything had occurred in the past 24 hours to change that and require tomorrow's meeting. Hagerty repeated that the President just wanted to go over the situation with the congressional leaders.

The state department made clear the United States had not budged on its oppositioin to Russia's announced withdrawal from Berlin whether the effective date was May 27 or some later time.

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Postpones Deadline

Khrushchev 'Frightened'

LEIPZIG, East Germany (Reuters) — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev Thursday offered to postpone Russia's scheduled May 27 handover of East Berlin for a month or more if the West wants to negotiate "reasonably."

Twice during the speech, he said Russia was in no hurry to hand over its responsibilities in East Berlin to East Germany.

The Soviet leader denied that any ultimatum was intended last Nov. 27 when Russia informed the Western powers of its intention to hand over its Berlin responsibilities in six months.

Four days ago, Moscow acceded to a Western note of Feb. 16 urging a foreign ministers' conference to discuss the Berlin and German problems. Russia proposed the conference start in April and run a maximum of three months.

Khrushchev Thursday addressed the West directly about its fears of a pending East-West showdown over Berlin.

"If you want to frighten us—well, we are frightened," he said. "And we have no reason to allow ourselves to be frightened any further. Do not lose reason."

In his speech about the May deadline, Khrushchev told the luncheon: "Now it is said the Russians are uncompromising, that we make a policy of ultimatums. That is not true.

"They say that May 27 is an ultimatum date. If you want to negotiate reasonably, let us put back May 27 to June 27 and perhaps put it back to July.

New RCAF Role: Ground Crew to U.S.

By DAVE McINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) — A new concept of Canadian air defence has emerged since the government's Feb. 20 announcement of cancellation of the Arrow jet interceptor program.

By and large, it is this: The RCAF will handle the ground duties and the United States Air Force the flying.

Defence Minister Pearkes signalled this radical change in use of RCAF manpower when he told the Commons Feb. 23:

"I think it is perfectly reasonable that at this time we should be placing more emphasis on developing the warning systems. . . .

"We can rely upon the U.S. which has declared it has available a large number of interceptors and, even if we had the Arrow, would be providing interceptor defence for the greater portion of North America."

RETURNED TO THEME

Mr. Pearkes returned to the same theme March 2 and said that there will be "certain developments" at some Canadian airfields, particularly in Western Canada, to accommodate American interceptors.

"We rely today upon squadrons of the U.S. Air Force to provide protection against enemy bombers over a large portion of Canada," he said.

Meanwhile, the government has been stressing that the RCAF is taking over more and more control of radar stations in Canada from U.S. personnel.

And Mr. Pearkes has said several times that the RCAF will man the two Bomarc anti-aircraft missile bases to be built in Canada. (See adjoining stories.)

Many RCAF officers say privately that this policy has been a heavy blow to RCAF morale, particularly among the younger aircrew who are keen to fly.

They indicated that as time goes on more and more RCAF personnel will be diverted from air crew training to ground trades.

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We Man Bases, U.S. Pushes Button

OTTAWA (CP) — United States controllers, and not the RCAF, likely will push the firing button for the two Bomarcs based in Canada, informants say.

They add that the RCAF in all likelihood will have little or no actual control over the Bomarc anti-aircraft missiles to be installed in this country.

The RCAF will man the two Bomarc bases near North Bay, Ont. and Mont Laurier, Que., and keep the missiles in repair and ready for firing.

But any firings likely will be carried out by remote control by American operators in the United States, informants say.

The reason for this is that the Bomarc will be locked into the SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment) electronic control system.

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Canada's Defences To Ring Spokane

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — United States Army engineers said Thursday present plans are to surround the city of Spokane completely with nine underground sites to fire intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The first U.S. Air Force announcement last year said three sites would be built.

But Lt.-Col. Don D. Deford, head of the Army Engineers office here, said six more will be added to surround Spokane in every direction.

The ICBMs, which can carry an atomic warhead 5,000 miles, will never be fired from Spokane except in case of enemy attack, he said.

Defence installations in the Spokane area of Eastern Washington are considered tactically as part of southwestern Canadian defences.

Denmark To Cut Army

COPENHAGEN (Reuters)—Denmark will cut military personnel and equipment and reduce the army conscription period despite NATO pleas for an increase in its defence expenditure, Defence Minister Poul Hansen told parliament Thursday. He said the army will be reduced to 13,000 men from 16,000 and the conscription period to 12 months from 16.

Dope Ring Used Child Couriers

NEW YORK (AP)—Five men were arrested Thursday on charges of being members of a narcotics ring that used children as couriers to deliver dope. The couriers were two girls, 16 and 11 years old, and a boy of 10, said assistant U.S. attorney William M. Tendy.

Legislature Warned

BCHIS May Fold On Wage Issue

If the matter of hospital wages is not solved soon, there is a "very great danger indeed of the B.C. Hospital Insurance Service folding up," William Murray (SC, Prince Rupert) warned the legislature yesterday.

"We must come up with some sort of answer. I can't see anything but a hit-and-miss arrangement now," he said.

"There must be a humanitarian as well as fiscal arrangement as well as fiscal consideration."

He suggested a province-wide flat wage scale with annual increments for hospital workers with special living allowances for high cost of living areas.

"Then we would have resolved the main problems our hospital boards face," he said.

He told the legislature that in Prince Rupert, where six members of the hospital board quit in a dispute with the health department over finances, wages were the main source of trouble.

Health Minister Martin said he had visited Prince Rupert but had come away convinced the hospital board there was "going its own way and not recognizing the government is a partner that pays at least 85 per cent of the cost."

625 farmers at Saskatoon and Regina. Another 225 join in Winnipeg Saturday.

1,100 Farmers On March To Ottawa

CALGARY (CP) — Western grain farmers, 1,100 strong, today start for Ottawa armed with petitions, briefs and arguments supporting a demand for deficiency payments on grain crops.

The march starts in Alberta, where 190 delegates board trains at Calgary and Edmonton, and moves into Saskatchewan Saturday to pick up

Four, Perhaps Seven Dead

Children Perish In Cellar Fire

BATOCHE, Sask. (CP) — Four persons, and possibly seven—most of them children—were killed Thursday night when fire swept their basement home in this tiny community 40 miles southwest of Prince Albert.

Three children were rescued from the blazing building. No names were immediately available.

Police said a family, with six children ranging in age from one to eight years, lived in the basement section of the unfinished home.

The parents returned from a civic meeting to find the basement smoking. When they opened the door, flames exploded from the inside.

Three children were pulled out, but the parents were unable to save any of the others.

Police said an elderly Saskatoon man also was missing. Details as to the other two persons listed as missing were not immediately available.

The three rescued children were taken to hospital in Rosthern, midway between Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

Trains Crash, 11 Perish

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A speeding freight train running far ahead of schedule rammed into a standing passenger train Thursday, killing 11 persons and injuring more than 70.

Many passengers saw the freight hurtling at them and tried to leap to safety.

Seven passengers killed in the crash were caught on steps or between the passenger coaches and crushed to death.

Don't Miss

'Space Squabbles Utterly Disgusting'
(Names in News, Page 2)

★ ★ ★

21 Locked-In Negroes Die in School Fire
(Page 5)

★ ★ ★

Classroom TV Debut Here Next Year
(Page 10)

★ ★ ★

Subway, Hot Dogs In Queen's Tour?
(Page 12)

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Canada Aids Breakup Of Counterfeit Ring
(Page 21)

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Tasty Rock Blasting Powder Just Like Candy for Bears

OTTAWA (CP)—Bears with a taste for blasting powder have been among problems encountered in putting the Trans-Canada Highway through the Rogers Pass in British Columbia, Works Minister Green said Wednesday.

He said blasting powder intended to be used to provide protection against snowslides in the Rocky Mountain pass was eaten by bears.

W. H. Herridge (CCF, Kootenay-East) commented that if the National Research Council officials carrying out avalanche control tests "had simply consulted a few old prospectors in the area, they would have told them that you cannot leave powder within a mile of a bear."